UNC School of Social Work Community Statement Regarding HB2

April 14, 2016

As members of the UNC-CH School of Social Work community, we hereby denounce North Carolina Session Law 2016-3, commonly known as House Bill 2 or HB2 because it is contrary to the Social Work mission and values we seek to practice. We embrace our ethical mandates to respect the dignity and worth of all people, to combat oppression in all its forms, and to fight for social justice.

It is not the intent of most people to do harm to others. Nevertheless, fear--real or imagined--has long moved rational, caring people to positions of intolerance and discrimination. House Bill 2 was passed in the evening shadows of a hurried and fear-driven special session. However, daylight revealed not a shield to protect our citizens but a weapon that destroys human dignity. The nation awoke to find North Carolina in a regressive flight from inclusion and equity. Now we must act quickly to do what is right.

To that end, we stand in unity with all of the people in North Carolina that HB2 harms, including but not limited to, transgender and gender nonconforming people, and other members of the LGBTQ+ community; people of color; people living in poverty; people with disabilities; older adults; and veterans.

Furthermore, we firmly agree with the Rev. William J. Barber II, who has stated that, “We cannot be silent in the face of this race-based, class-based, homophobic, and transphobic attack on wage earners, civil rights, and the LGBTQ community.”

We urge the N.C. General Assembly to repeal HB2 immediately.

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